

Amendments to the Claims:

The below listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted listings of the claims.

1. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising a gene encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide (i) comprises a granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type murine granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type murine granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor, and (ii) imparts proliferation activity to a cell, upon dimerization of said first polypeptide.

6. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell carrying the vector of Claim 5.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising a desired exogenous gene and a gene

encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type murine granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type murine granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The vector of Claim 8, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A vector system comprising a pair of co-transformed vectors, the first of said co-transformed vectors comprising a desired exogenous gene and the second of said co-transformed vectors comprising a gene encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type murine granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor, or a granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) and amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type murine granulocyte-colony stimulating factor receptor that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell.

15. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell carrying the vector according to Claim 8 or Claim 12.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A kit comprising (a) the vector of Claim 5 or Claim 8, and

(b) a steroid hormone ligand capable of acting on the “ligand-binding domain” of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector.

18. (Previously Presented) The vector system of claim 14, wherein said system is a binary vector system.

19. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell carrying the vector system according to claim 14 or 18.

20. (Previously Presented) The vector of Claim 5, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is the receptor for a steroid hormone selected from the group consisting of an estrogen, an androgen, a progesterone, a glucocorticoid, and a mineral corticoid.

21. (Previously Presented) The vector of Claim 20, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

22. (Previously Presented) The vector of Claim 8, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is the receptor for a steroid hormone selected from the group consisting of an androgen, a progesterone, a glucocorticoid, and a mineral corticoid.

23. (Previously Presented) The vector system of Claim 14, wherein the steroid

hormone receptor is the receptor for a steroid hormone selected from the group consisting of an estrogen, an androgen, a progesterone, a glucocorticoid, and a mineral corticoid.

24. (Previously Presented) The vector system of Claim 23, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.